

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Due to the length of the specification herein, Applicants will cite to the paragraph number of the published patent application (PG Pub) of the present application, i.e., US 2007/0208138, when discussing the application description, both in this section and in the Remarks section, *infra*, rather than to page and line of the specification as filed.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended as supported in the specification at paragraph [0033].

Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the porous filler is present.

Claims 14 and 16 have been amended by deleting the term “essentially” from the recital of the Markush group. Claim 16 has been further amended by correcting a typographical error.

New Claims 17-20 have been added. Claims 17-19 are supported in the specification at paragraphs [0033] and [0035] combined. Claim 20 is supported by Claim 1.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 1, 5-6, 11-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, and of Claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, WO 98/45368 (Saito et al), are respectfully traversed. Saito et al discloses an olefin (co-)polymer composition mainly comprising (a) 0.01 to 5 weight parts of an olefin (co-)polymer (a) having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta_a]$ of 15 to 100 dl/g measured in tetralin at 135°C; and (b) 100 weight parts of an olefin (co-)polymer (b) having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta_b]$ of 0.2 to 10 dl/g measured in tetralin at 135°C obtained using a particular polymerization catalyst (paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6). Olefin (co-)polymer (a) is preferably either an ethylene homopolymer or an ethylene-olefin (co-)polymer containing not less than 50 weight % of ethylene polymerization units, and olefin (co-)polymer (b) is preferably a propylene homopolymer or a propylene-olefin copolymer containing not less than 50 weight % of propylene polymerization units (page 9, lines 14-20). Thus, even prior to the above-discussed amendment, Saito et al did not anticipate the presently-claimed invention, because 5 weight parts of their component (a) and 100 weight parts of their component (b) means that component (a) is present in a maximum amount, based on the combination of (a) and (b), of $5 \div 105$, or approximately 4.8 wt%. Moreover, Saito et al further discloses that component (a) is present more preferably in an amount of from 0.05 to 1 weight parts per 100 parts of component (b) (paragraph bridging pages 25 and 26). Saito et al discloses that the above-mentioned amount of component (a) is presently within that range in view of improvement in melt tension and crystallization temperature of the olefin (co-)polymer composition obtained, and also in view of the homogeneity of the composition (page 26, lines 5-8). Note further that in all of the examples of Saito et al, as shown in Table 1 therein, component (a) is present in a maximum amount of 0.50 parts per 100 weight parts of component (b), and has an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ ranging from 28 to 31

dl/g, both outside the respective ranges of the present claims. In sum, the invention of Saito et al is substantially a low molecular weight propylene-based polymer in which a higher molecular weight ethylene-based polymer is uniformly dispersed. It is very difficult to uniformly disperse a higher molecular weight ethylene-based polymer in a propylene-based polymer. For this reason, Saito et al uses an ethylene-based polymer in preliminary activation and the amount of ethylene-based polymer is kept generally low with regard to the propylene-based polymer. In contrast, in the present invention, since a high molecular weight propylene-based polymer is dispersed in a low molecular weight propylene-based polymer, the higher molecular weight component is readily dispersed. As a result, Applicants found that the content of 5 to 20 wt% leads to excellent properties.

New Claim 20 is separately patentable, as Saito et al teaches away from using a polymer not containing at least 50% ethylene units in their olefin (co-)polymer (a).

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-2 and 7-10, and 3-4, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by US 6,306,973 (Takaoka et al), is respectfully traversed. Takaoka et al discloses a polypropylene block-copolymer resin comprising (A) 10 to 50% by weight of a higher molecular weight polypropylene part having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$, determined in decalin at 135°C, of 6 to 13 dl/g, (B) 10 to 89% by weight of a lower molecular weight polypropylene part having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$, determined in decalin at 135°C, of lower than 6 dl/g, and (C) 1 to 40% by weight of an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer part having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$, determined in decalin at 135°C of 0.1 to 13 dl/g, and having other properties as described (column 3, line 31ff). It is noted that while Takaoka et al discloses intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ measured in decalin, in the present invention, intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ is measured in tetralin. If the solvent for measuring an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ is changed from

tetralin to decalin, the value of the intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ becomes greater. Specifically, based on experience, there is the following relationship expression:

$$[\eta]_{\text{tetralin}} = 0.812 \times [\eta]_{\text{decalin}}.$$

The $[\eta]$ decalin of a high molecular weight polypropylene (A) of Takaoka et al is 6 to 13 dl/g. According to the above expression, this becomes of 4.9 to 10.6 dl/g in tetralin. On the other hand, in above-amended Claims 1 and 6, the minimum $[\eta]$ tetralin viscosity is 12 dl/g. Accordingly, Takaoka et al does not anticipate the presently-claimed invention.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-2, 14 and 16, and 3-4, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by US 6,251,997 (Imai et al), is respectfully traversed. Imai et al discloses a polypropylene resin composition comprising 5 to 25% by weight of a higher molecular weight polypropylene (A) having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$, determined in decalin at 135°C, in the range from 5 to 11 dl/g and 95 to 75% by weight of a lower molecular weight polypropylene (B) having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$, determined in decalin at 135°C in the range from 0.6 to 1.6 dl/g, and having other characteristics, as described (column 2, line 19ff). Similar to Takaoka et al, discussed above, Imai et al discloses intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ measured in decalin. Thus, the above-discussed expression applies herein as well. Using that expression, 6 to 11 dl/g in decalin becomes 4.9 to 8.9 dl/g in tetralin. Thus, since present component (A) has an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ in tetralin of 12 to 20 dl/g, Imai et al does not anticipate the presently-claimed invention.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

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Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Customer Number

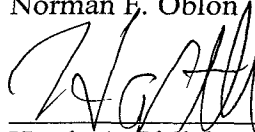
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.

Norman F. Oblon



Harris A. Pitlick

Registration No. 38,779